The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Μαντατοφόρος*

Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

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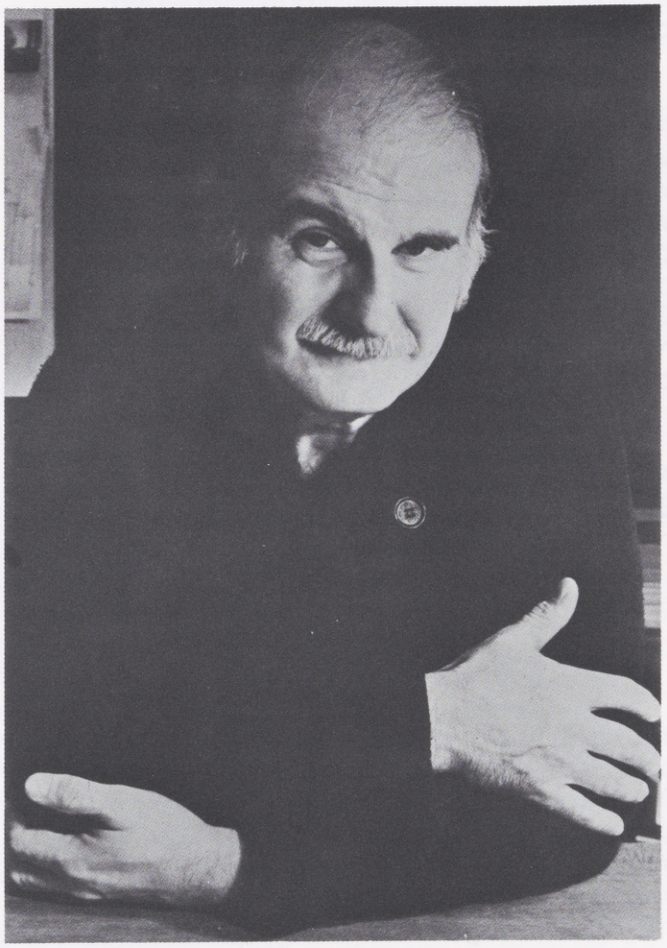
Simoni Zafiropoulos Speaks on "Women in Ancient & Modern Greece" - April 22

Dr. Simoni Zafiropoulos, cultural attaché of the Greek government in New York, will give a special lecture and slide presentation on "**Women in Ancient and Modern Greece**," on Friday, April 22, at 8 p.m. The event will be held in the Richmond Room of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension (4700 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland), and is co-sponsored by the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Hellenic American Professional Society-Golden Gate Branch, and the Lectures Committee of the Church.

Dr. Zafiropoulos has long been a proponent of feminist issues, and is author of *Mirror Images: Greek Women Through Time.* She is a specialist in Greek family law, and her talk will include a discussion of the new family law. Dr. Zafiropoulos is also an authority on the fine arts in contemporary Greece. The evening promises to be lively and informative.

There is a $3 donation requested at the door. For details about the lecture, please call HAPS at 777-1977 or the CMGS at 338-1892.



Harry Mark Petrakis to Be Next Kazantzakis Chairholder

The one and only **Harry Mark Petrakis** has been invited to be the next visiting professor to the **Kazantzakis Chair** for the fall semester, 1989. The distinguished novelist and short story writer will teach at least two courses—one related to Nikos Kazantzakis and the other a fiction-writing workshop or a course on Greek American writers.

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Move for 1996 Olympics in Athens

Volunteers for the 1996 Olympiad in Athens, an organization based in Berkeley and dedicated to celebrating the centennial of the Olympic Games at their birthplace, is requesting support from the Greek American community here in the Bay Area. **Demosthenes Bogdis**, director, feels that the world is "in need of a sentimental reminder of the true Olympic spirit ....The Olympic Games are supposed to bring nations and people together in stadiums, rather than against each other in battlefields and courtrooms."

Bogdis, originally from Patras, has been in the U.S. for 20 years, and works as a shipping clerk with the International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union. He and the Volunteers want to give "a boost to the long-suffering Olympic Games and the ideas they represent." He is confident of world-wide support for holding the 26th Games in Athens, saying, "There are 10 million Greeks, but hundreds of millions of Greeks at heart when it comes to the Olympics."

The Volunteers for the 1996 Olympiad in Athens can be contacted at: P.O. Box 8313, Berkeley, CA 94707.

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Working Together to Help the Children

Under the combined efforts of **Interplast, Inc.**, and the **Paraskevaides Foundation**, 17-year-old Soterios Komodromos arrived in the United States from Cyprus on March 7th to undergo delicate and extensive facial surgery. Komodromos is the first Cypriot patient to be accepted for treatment by Interplast. The Palo Alto-based, international organization is comprised of prominent doctors and medical personnel. It provides free reconstructive surgery and medical care for children with birth defects or injuries that cannot be accommodated in their home countries.

The only criteria is medical and financial need, and Interplast usually visits areas where they can help as many children as possible on-site. In special cases, such as Komodromos, the work is done here.

The Paraskevaides Foundation of Cyprus, founded by George and Thelma Paraskevaides, acts as an agent in locating medically and financially needy children in Cyprus and Greece and linking them up with U.S. agencies that can help. The Foundation pays the American care facility for transportation costs.

Komodromos and his family, from Famagusta, have been refugees since the Turkish invasion in 1974, and now live in Kivisilli. He will require more extensive reconstructive surgery than originally diagnosed, and a special fund has been established through Interplast to defray these additional costs. Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Greece-Cyprus Fund, Interplast, Inc., 1731 Embarcadero Road, Suite 202, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

For more information about Interplast, the Paraskevaides Foundation, or Soterios Komodromos, call Dena Karbo at (415) 363-2654.

Petrakis, cont'd.

Though born in the United States and raised in Chicago (his father was a Greek Orthodox priest on Chicago's South Side), Petrakis' family hails from Crete. Much of his writing reflects Greek—and Greek immigrant—history, values, and customs. Petrakis claims that Kazantzakis "has been an inspiration to me from the time I first read his works. I have cherished the link that allowed us to share Cretan roots. To be able to speak about him and his work to students studying his philosophy and his art would be a small repayment of an enormous debt."

Petrakis has written more than a dozen books, among them six novels (*Days of Vengeance, The Hour of the Bell,* etc.), three collections of short stories, and a work of autobiography. In 1983, he won the Carl Sandburg Award, and has twice been nominated for the National Book Award in Fiction. He has also been honored by Friends of American Writers, Friends of Literature, the Society of Midland Authors, and the O'Henry Award. His writing has drawn praise from such literary stars as Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Elie Wiesel, Mark Van Doren, Isaac Bashevis Singer, and John Cheever. Said Cheever, "I've always thought Harry Mark Petrakis to be a leading American novelist."

Petrakis holds honorary degrees from the University of Illinois, Roosevelt University, Governor's State University, and Hellenic College. He has been published in numerous major national magazines and newspapers, and has taught and lectured extensively throughout the U.S. He is widely praised for his teaching and lecturing skills.

In addition to the courses he will be giving here at the CMGS/San Francisco State University, Petrakis will deliver a series of lectures in the Bay Area and northern California communities under the auspices of the Kazantzakis Chair. We are anticipating the fall of 1989 with great excitement!

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Editors: Katharine Fong, Thanasis Maskaleris.
Consultant: James Uomini.
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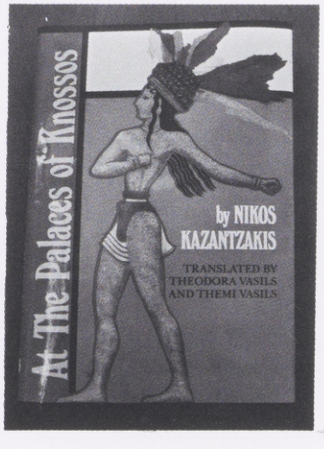
Connie Aretos, governor of the Daughters of Penelope (District 21), presents a check in the amount of $3,409 to MGSF treasurer George Lekas--proceeds from the Daughters of Penelope Charitable Raffle. Looking on are Gus Aretos, governor of AHEPA (Dist. 21), MGSF president Sen. Nicholas C. Petris, MGSF corresponding secretary Mary Thodos, and Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris.



A new translation of a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis has just been published. See back page for details. This photo and the photo of the Zafiropoulos book (p. 1) by Liza Ryan.

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New Translation of Kazantzakis' *At the Palaces of Knossos...*

A new translation of a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis has just been published: ***At the Palaces of Knossos*** was written originally for an Athenian youth periodical and, while an adventure story, is also an allegory of history—the supplanting of a sophisticated but decadent culture by a brash new civilization. Kazantzakis contrasts the ritualized, complacent court of King Minos with the vigor and youth of newly-emerging Athens. The kingdom of Crete must perish if classical Greek civilization is to bloom into its golden age of reason and science. The following excerpt from the novel records the thoughts of Theseus—slayer of the Minotaur:

"His heart was soaring. He strode out into the sunlight, past the courtyard, past the terraces, the towers, the workshops, past the storehouses crammed with all the world's rich yield. When he had gone some distance, he turned for one last look at the renowned Palace. *This empire of Crete had done all it could do* (he thought). *It had accomplished great things, built cities as far as the ends of the earth, conquered a whole world with its ships and its trade, built magnificent palaces, created a great civilization....But now it had finally spent itself. It had nothing more to give. It stood in the way of the young and kept them from creating great works of their own. It had to be destroyed....Whatever had rotted would fall...had to fall! so that they could pass! They were young...they would build a new world...."*

At the Palaces of Knossos, published by Ohio University Press in Athens, is translated by **Theodora Vasils** and **Themi Vasils**, both highly regarded translators of Kazantzakis and modern Greek literature.

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